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REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR  
THE URBAN DISTRICT  
OF HORNSEA.  
YEAR 1938.



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# Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1938.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council  
of Hornsea.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Urban ~~Council~~ District for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

Noteworthy improvements in connection with drainage, which were outlined in my Annual Report for 1937, have been effected. The provision of a storm water drain, designed to relieve the sewage system in periods of heavy rainfall, has proved its efficacy, no instance of flooding having occurred since its completion. The surface water outfall from the Stream Dyke was completed about the middle of the year and has effectively prevented flooding of the neighbouring low lying land now occupied by bungalows of recent construction. Both these works have already proved their usefulness and form an undoubted contribution to the amenities of the district and to the improved health of the inhabitants.

Schemes for the reconstruction of the main sewage outfall and the provision of a Refuse Disposal Plant are now under consideration and constructional work upon them will be commenced in the near future.

Both the birth rate and the death rate for the District shew a decline on comparison with the figures for the previous year, being 9.6 and 11.9 per 1,000 respectively. The figures for 1937 were 9.9 and 13.7. The deaths from cancer have increased, the number 12 being the highest recorded for over 14 years.

The higher incidence of notifiable infectious disease recorded this year is to be attributed to an outbreak of scarlet fever amongst Hull children at the Victoria Children's Hospital Convalescent Home. One other case of scarlet fever was notified during the year, the remaining notifications of infectious disease being in no way unusual and so not requiring special comment.

#### RAINFALL.

The year's rainfall was somewhat below the average, being 23.52 inches. A drought was experienced in the three months February-April, only 1.53 inches being recorded, as a result of which one third of the total rain fell during the first half of the year, namely 7.82 inches. The average annual rainfall for the ten previous years was 24.68 inches.

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—3,437.73 acres, inclusive of inland water.

Resident Population—as computed by the Registrar General (mid 1938), 4,468.

Number of Inhabited Houses—1,620.

Rateable Value—£32,719.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£125 13s. 0d.

Hornsea is a seaside resort distant about 16 miles from the City of Hull, and may be regarded as a residential suburb of the City. The district is chiefly agricultural, and during the holiday season additional employment is afforded in connection with seaside apartments and amusements.

The average number of unemployed persons per month during 1938 was 91, a remarkable decrease on last year's figure of 381. The decrease in unemployment is partly accounted for by the additional work afforded by new development schemes, of which mention should be made of the boating lakes and drainage works. The major portion of the decrease can only be attributed to an improvement in the general prosperity of the District.

Live Births—Legitimate, males 17; females 20.

Illegitimate, males 3; females 3.

Total both sexes—43.

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population—9.6.

Still births—3.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—	10.3.
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population,	15.1.
Deaths—Males 24. Females 29.	
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population—	11.9.
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population,	11.6.
Deaths from puerperal causes—	0.
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births .....	23
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	27
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	0

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

It has not been necessary to make any alteration in connection with the Health Services of the Urban District, for a description of which reference should be made to my Annual Report for 1937.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

*Water.*—Water is purchased in bulk from the Hull Corporation and distributed by the Council. The Hull Corporation carry out all the necessary bacteriological and chemical examinations of the water. The supply has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity. During the year an examination of the piped system has been made, and leakages which were responsible for a considerable amount of water wastage repaired.

Quantity registered by the meter .....	52,267,000 galls.
Minimum weekly consumption .....	871,000 galls.
Average daily consumption .....	143,197 galls.
New services connected — 18.	

*Drainage and Sewerage.*—A new storm water sewer has been completed and has proved successful in abating the flooding of low-lying land during periods of storm. Proposals for the reconstruction of the Sewer Outfall are now before the Ministry of Health.

*Closet Accommodation.*—All the closets are now on the water carriage system.

*Public Cleansing.*—Dry house refuse is collected weekly by motor vehicle and carts, and disposed of by controlled tipping on the land behind the south end of the sea wall. The Minister of Health has sanctioned the erection of a Refuse Disposal Plant at the site of the Old Waterworks on the Atwick Road.

There are no cesspools in the populous and closely built area. The few cesspools in the rural area are cleansed by the owners, and the contents disposed of on the farmland.

*Rivers and Streams.*—There are no rivers in the area. The outlet to the sea of the most important stream—the Stream Dyke—has been improved by carrying the stream by means of a 30 inch cast iron pipe through the sea wall and across the beach to below high water mark. This provision enables the water to escape freely and obviates the flooding of land which formerly occurred.

*Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*—Systematic inspection is made of the district, monthly, and as occasion may require.

15 notices to abate nuisances have been served during the year, 9 statutory and 6 preliminary. The nuisances were abated upon service of the notices.

*Shops, Shops' Act, 1934.*—One statutory notice has been served and complied with.

*Camping Sites.*—The District is popular with campers, who have been attracted in increasing numbers during the past few years.

- |   |     |     |     |      |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1—The number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938  | ... | ... | ... | 9    |
| 2—The number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 | ... | ... | ... | 7    |
| 3—The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938   | ... | ... | ... | 1500 |

*Smoke Abatement.*—No action has been necessary during the year.

*Swimming Baths.*—There is one privately owned swimming bath open to the public in the district. The bath has a capacity of 20,000 gallons and is filled with sea water. Before admission to the bath the water is allowed to settle for 24 hours in a sedimentation tank, and during the summer months when the bath

is in use, the water is completely changed daily. This frequent renewal ensures a satisfactory standard of purity of the water. The intake to the bath is situated over half-a-mile from the sewage outfall of the town.

*Eradication of Bed Bugs.*—No case of infection of a house with bed bugs has occurred.

*Schools.*—There are two public elementary schools, one a new building opened in September, 1935. The sanitary condition of them both is entirely satisfactory. Their water supply is from the piped supply of the district.

A Camp School, owned by the Wakefield Corporation, was opened for the reception of school children in April. It consists of five pavilions of timber construction on brick foundations. The site is adjacent to the public highway, provided with water main and sewer to which the pavilions are connected.

## HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—
  - (1a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... .. 37
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 50
  - 2(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... .. 0
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 0
  3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. 1
  4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. 2
2. Remedy for Defects during the year without Service of formal notices :—
  - Number of defective dwellings and houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... .. 7

3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
	(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	1
2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners ... ..	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	3
2.	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners ... ..	3
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners...	0
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
2.	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	1
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
1.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	0
2.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	0
4.	Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding :	
(a)	1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	4
	2. Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	4
	3. Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	24
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	0

(c) 1.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	1
2.	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	4½
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	0

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Milk and Dairies Order came into force in 1926. There are 27 dairies on the register and approximately 120 cows. A total of 18 inspections have been made, 9 to cowsheds and 9 to dairies. Accredited and pasteurised milk is now sold in Hornsea. No case of infectious disease has occurred amongst the milk workers.

There are five slaughter-houses in the district to which five visits have been made. No defects have been found.

Four inspections have been made of foods exposed for sale.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1938.

<i>Disease.</i>				<i>Total cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Smallpox	...	...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	22	21	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	7	7	0
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	...	...	...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	1	2
Other diseases generally notifiable. (Ophthalmia Neonatorum)...	...	...	...	1	0	0

### ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

<i>Age Period (years)</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>
2—	—	1	0
4—	3	1	0
5—9	14	2	1
10—14	3	2	0
15—19	1	1	1
20—34	1	0	0
65—	0	0	1

The majority of the cases of notifiable infectious disease, namely, 21 cases of scarlet fever and 3 of diphtheria, originated in the Convalescent Home Branch of the Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, Hull, during the period March to May. The patients are drawn chiefly from the Out-patient Department of the Hospital, and it is therefore a matter of difficulty to ensure that they have not been in recent contact with infection before admission to the Home.

### PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

It has not been necessary to take any action under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Only one new case of Tuberculosis (respiratory) was notified during the year, a male aged 19 years. He died 6 months after notification.

Notification of Tuberculosis in the area is efficient.

Your obedient servant,

L. FRENCH, B. Sc., M.B., B.S.  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



